

FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

5 June 1974

Testimony of Harold L. Brownman, Deputy Director for Management and Services, Central Intelligence Agency

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee.

The Central Intelligence Agency is happy to be of all possible assistance to the Committee and its staff concerning the CIA's use of the polygraph. This opening statement has been prepared with that thought in mind. However, we believe that an executive session of the Committee for the ensuing question period will permit us to more freely respond since we may have to touch upon classified matters in satisfaction of your questions. May we request, Mr. Chairman, that the question and answer period of this hearing be held in executive session.

The CIA is familiar with the recommendations of this Committee which were made in its Tenth Report, including the recommendation that an interagency committee be established to study problems posed by the Federal Government's use of polygraphs and to work out solutions to those problems.

In the years 1964 to the present, the CIA has attempted to comply with your recommendations and with the spirit of the recommendations made by the interagency committee.

The CIA, as an Agency with an intelligence mission, uses the polygraph in its applicant security screening program. All positions in the Agency are sensitive within the criteria established in Executive Order 10450. All full-time, permanent employees of the Agency possess Top Secret clearances.

The Director of Central Intelligence has put out a Directive governing our use of the polygraph. Under the terms of this Directive, a copy of which has been provided the Committee,

The Director of Security is responsible for the supervision and training of polygraph examiners and for the conduct of the polygraph program of the CIA. He is charged by the DCI with the responsibility of insuring that the highest standards of operating procedures and equipment capability are established.

The polygraph is used in the CIA as an aid to investigation for determining the security eligibility of persons for employment by or assignment to the Agency; staff-like access to sensitive Agency installations; utilization in operational situations; or continued access to classified information where implications of a security nature or investigative information require clarifying security interviews.

The polygraph is not used on official or administrative matters involving possible malfeasance, or for the sole purpose of determining violations of the criminal laws of any country.

If a polygraph examination involved a question pertaining to the violation of a criminal law, the individual would be informed of his privilege against self-incrimination and his right to consult with legal counsel or other professional assistance prior to the examination. Notification of such rights would be formally recorded.

Each applicant for employment is notified, at the time he is given application forms, of the intent to use a polygraph examination in the course of his employment processing. A copy of this form has been provided to this Committee.

He is told, before testing, the general content of all questions which he will be asked. The questions, since they are couched in broad terms, are discussed carefully with the applicant and the examiner works with the applicant to tailor the question to his/her age, sex and background. All the testing procedures are explained.

Before a person undergoes a polygraph examination, his consent is obtained in writing.

If an applicant asks, he is told if the polygraph examination is being monitored or recorded.

Before an applicant is polygraphed, he has been interviewed by representatives of the Office of Personnel and Office of Medical Services. A security field investigation has also been initiated. Guidance from the Office of Personnel and the Medical Staff is routinely provided to the Office of Security if any information has been developed as a result of their screening procedures that might preclude the advisability of conducting a polygraph interview.

The Director of Security is responsible for establishment of adequate safeguards designed to prevent unwarranted invasion of privacy.

All questions must have specific relevance to the person being polygraphed, and to the purpose of that particular test.

Examiner's instructions have been prepared in sensitive question areas to ensure that persons undergoing polygraph interrogation are not subjected to questioning about irrelevant, unwarranted or trivial matters. The interview is not used to probe a person's thoughts about conduct which has no security implications; e.g., religious beliefs,

practices, and affiliations; opinions regarding racial matters; political activities or organizational affiliations of a nonsubversive nature; and personal views concerning proposed or existing legislation.

The Director of Security maintains separate files for information obtained during polygraph examinations. By separate we mean separate from Security files as well as separate from Personnel files and, of course, we do not put any polygraph derived information on computers or in computer data banks. Polygraph information is released only to appropriate Agency officials when it has a direct bearing on a decision to be made by that official.

Polygraphed acquired information can only be released outside the Agency after a determination has been made, which is approved by the Director or Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, that such a release is necessary in the interest of national security.

I feel it would be appropriate here to make three basic points.

The polygraph examiner makes no recommendation as to the security suitability or status of the person tested.

The polygraph report is evaluated as but one element of the total investigative record.

At no time is security action taken solely on the basis of the polygraph charts.

STATINTL

Approved For Release 2001/07/12 : CIA-RDP83B00823R000200050035-0

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2001/07/12 : CIA-RDP83B00823R000200050035-0